



THE ASSOCIATE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 15 2008

Ms. Anne Hale Miglarese
Chair, National Geospatial Advisory Committee
President, EarthData International, Inc.
7320 Executive Way,
Frederick, Maryland 21704-8353

Dear Ms. Miglarese:

The purpose of this letter is to provide guidance to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) and identify initial key issues for the NGAC to address over the coming months. This guidance represents Interior's charge to the NGAC on behalf of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) partner agencies.

The FGDC views the NGAC as an important component for ensuring the success of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). Successfully implementing the NSDI requires close coordination between Federal, State, local, and tribal governments; the private sector; academia; and non-profit organizations. To ensure effective coordination, the FGDC needs advice from stakeholders on a wide variety of issues. An initial set of issues for review and consideration by the NGAC has been identified through discussions among Interior, FGDC agencies and staff, and the NGAC Chair and Vice Chair. We have also sought feedback from NGAC members and FGDC agencies to help prioritize these potential study issues.

The goal in providing this initial guidance is to establish a general framework that will allow the NGAC to focus its efforts on high priority issues, including issues within the list presented below, while still providing the NGAC with the flexibility to organize, prioritize, and refine the tasks it is being called upon to address. Key issues for initial NGAC review during 2008 are identified within the four focus areas listed below. The focus areas may lend themselves to a subcommittee organization that could be created to address each of the four areas.

1. Advancing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure

- **National Spatial Data Infrastructure.** Recommendations on the future roles and responsibilities of the key players (Federal, State/local, private sector, academia, etc.) in developing and sustaining the next generation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. This review may include examination of public domain vs. restricted information, and the future role and evolution of the National Applications Office in coordination and declassification of geospatial data and information.

